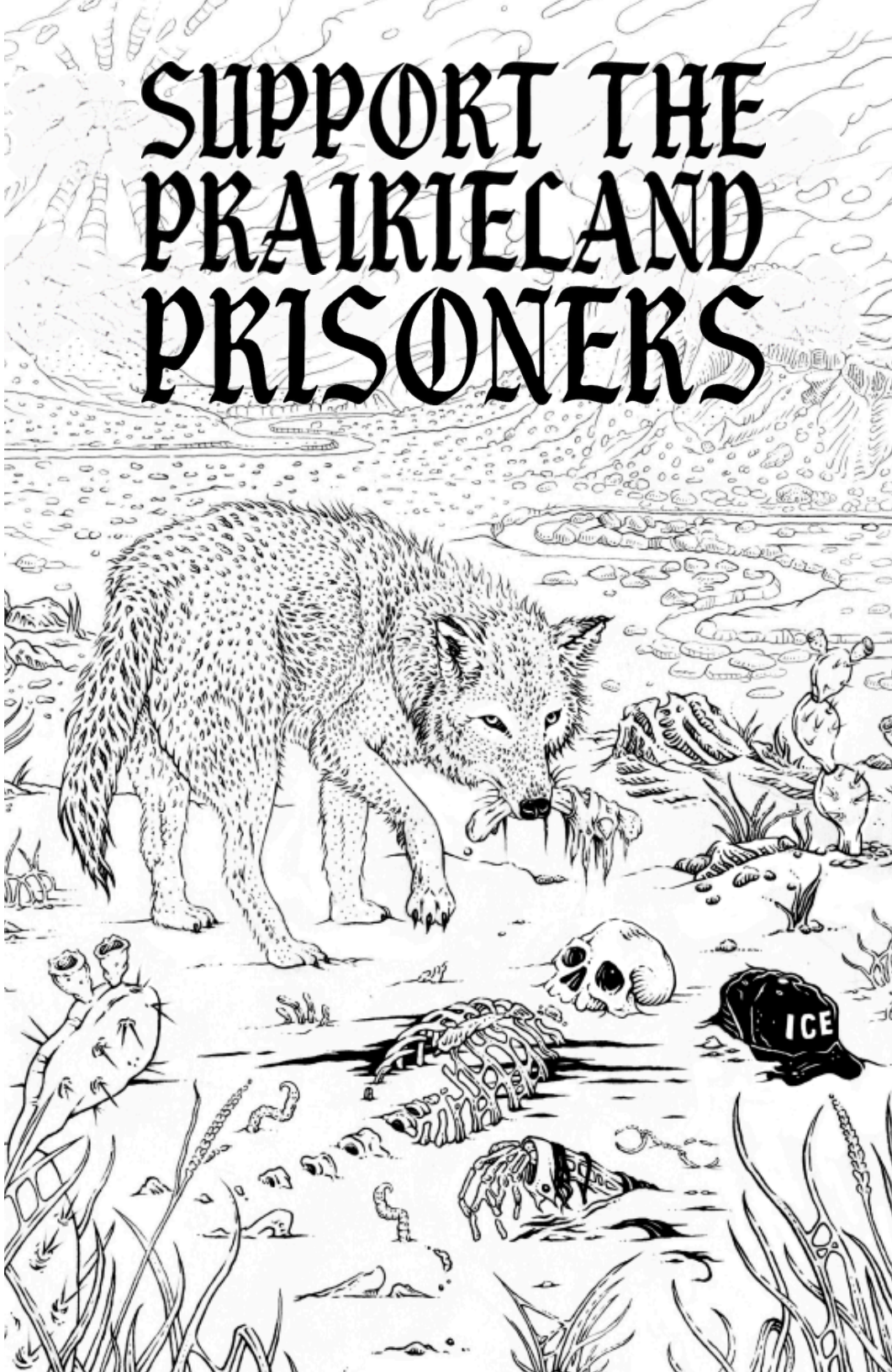
life means
taking sides

prairielanddefendants.com

SUPPORT THE PRAIRIELAND PRISONERS



updated November 4, 2026

cover image from Screwston Anti-Fascist Committee's fundraiser for the defendants: *screwstonafc.shop*

with whatever weapons at hand

the bridge

to freedom

passes

over...

...the

ruins of the

detention

centers

the bridge

to freedom

passes

over...

...the

ruins of the

detention

centers

Free the Prairieland Prisoners! Free Them All!

Savanna Batten sentenced to 50 years in prison

Zachary Evetts sentenced to 50 years in prison

Autumn Hill sentenced to 50 years in prison

Maricela Rueda sentenced to 70 years in prison

Daniel "Des" Rolando Sanchez Estrada sentenced to 30 years in prison

Benjamin "Champagne" Song sentenced to 100 years in prison

Elizabeth Soto sentenced to 50 years in prison

Ines Soto sentenced to 50 years in prison

Rebecca Morgan sentenced to 15 years in prison

Joy "Rowan" Gibson sentenced to 15 years in prison

The Prairieland defendants sentenced on June 23, 2026 are Savanna Batten, Zachary Evetts, Autumn Hill, Maricela Rueda, Daniel "Des" Rolando Sanchez Estrada, Benjamin "Champagne" Song, and Elizabeth Soto. All defendants, with the exception of Des were convicted of rioting, providing material support to terrorists, conspiracy to use an explosive, and use of an explosive device, which referred to the consumer grade fireworks used on July 4. Des was convicted of concealing a document—political literature—and, along with Maricela, conspiracy to conceal documents. Champagne was additionally convicted of attempted murder of an officer and discharging a firearm in furtherance of a crime. Ines Soto, who was convicted at trial, and Joy "Rowan" Gibson and Rebecca Morgan who took non-cooperating plea deals were sentenced on July 1.

Champagne, the most harshly sentenced Prairieland defendant, having received a 100-year prison term, gave a moving statement in response to their sentence, explaining for the first time the motivations for their actions the night of the noise demonstration at the Prairieland ICE Detention Center. "What we all saw happen to Renee Good and Alex Pretti is my worst nightmare," said Song. "So, when I was standing in the street on July 4th, 2025, in plain view with reflective safety strips and high visibility clothing, what I saw right in front of my eyes was my worst nightmare," continued Song. "When I saw Lieutenant Thomas Gross stop pursuing and point his gun at the back of a running, unarmed protester, like he testified, I was terrified."

"As a firearms instructor and a United States Marine Corps Veteran, I understood what I was seeing. I knew what it meant for someone to lean forward into a gun, […] to prepare for recoil. As the evidence shows, I did not want to hurt anyone. I never had the intent to hurt anyone. It is impossible to say that I was trying to ambush or anyone or planning violence," Song told the court. "I am so grateful that we are not here mourning another death and tragedy. Another Alex Pretti. Another Renee Good."

"This case has relied on lies and misinformation from the start," said Amber Lowrey, the sister of Savanna Batten, who was sentenced today to 50 years in prison. "While these absurd sentences are no surprise based on the bias of the court, it is heartbreaking nonetheless. But we will keep fighting to overturn these unjust convictions and to free Savanna and all the Prairieland defendants. We will not rest until they are free!"

"As a congregation, we decided that this case was a fundamental test of our right to dissent against authoritarian regimes," said Ana Marie Thorne, Chair of the Social Justice Committee at All People's Church Unitarian Universalist in Fort Worth. "These defendants are not militant monsters out to kill," continued Thorne. "They are everyday people who saw our country literally interning people in concentration camps and decided to show up at Prairieland Detention Center to let those incarcerated there know that they mattered. We leave here today knowing that the outcome of this trial is not the end. It is the beginning."

"The weight of the sentences that have been handed down is crushing but we should not be surprised," said Ines Soto in a prepared statement. Soto was one of the defendants sentenced today. "The government has shown it is willing to separate loved ones across borders, cage people in squalid detention centers, bring violence into loving

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BLUESKY

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TIKTOK

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MASTODON

mas.to/@dfwsupportcommittee

FUNDRAISER

givesendgo.com/supportdfwprotestors

Write to the Defendants

Note: As of July 25, 2026, the final destination for the defendants sentenced to prison is unclear and subject to change. Regularly check in with the support website for accurate information. Many of them have been incarcerated since July —let them know they are not alone! All mail is monitored by state and federal law enforcement. Be extremely mindful of what you are writing. Do not under any circumstances discuss the facts of the case and do not include overtly political commentary. Consider writing about fun things you've done, tell stories, or transcribe your favorite poem. Visit the New York City Anarchist Black Cross website for more detailed letter writing information.

Guidelines & Facility Addresses

Only write in blue or black ink on white 8.5×11 paper. No stickers, glitter, or whiteout. Include first and last name as well as ID number, page numbers, date, and a return address at the top of each sheet.

neighborhoods, and gun people down in the streets," continued Soto. "It is only through our collective efforts that we will get through this. I trust that everyone will find ways to contribute to and expand these efforts how they can."

"The whole process of our prosecution and trial was one long gauntlet of terror after terror, designed to bully us into false confessions, and to drive the jury to abandon reason and condemn nine innocents," said Prairieland trial defendant Autumn Hill, who was sentenced last week to 50 years. "I do not believe in harbouring hate or terrorizing anyone," continued Hill. "I believe in Love. Do not fear, Love, and trust in the Love of your fellow creatures. Fear Not is the encouragement of the angels. Be Strong and Courageous is the instruction of the Most High in scripture. Where there is Love, there is no Fear."

"The fictitious narrative presented by the government doesn't exist in reality," said Elizabeth Soto, the wife of Ines Soto, in a prepared statement. Elizabeth Soto was sentenced last week to 50 years in prison. "It is their design created to criminalize people for protesting, for not conforming," continued Elizabeth Soto. "We are living through a moment in time that will affect everyone in the future. If this conviction is allowed to stand, it will affect countless others," continued Elizabeth Soto. "To the world, we cannot let this stand. For the people who come after us, we must never give up. We will go home."

"This conviction is the continuation of a campaign of terror and violence that has been allowed to imprison people speaking out against the immigration policies of this administration," said Savanna Batten, who was sentenced last week to 50 years. "To my friends, to Renée Good, to Alex Pretti, and to the people being held in detention centers across the country, I have the very same urgent message that compelled me to Prairieland that night with a heavy heart: 'We see you. We love you. You are not forgotten.'"

"A wide reaching dragnet has been cast, hoping to pull as many people in as possible to 'set an example' for anyone who even dares to believe in a better world for all of us," said Prairieland defendant Janette Goering, who has not been tried yet and is facing State charges. "Personally, I am terrified. It's hard not to be," continued Goering. "But, that doesn't mean I am going to give up. And neither will my codefendants, nor countless others in this struggle."

The Prairieland cases, involving 22 people charged with both state and federal charges, stem from a noise demonstration in solidarity with detainees at the Prairieland ICE Detention Center in Alvarado, Texas, on July 4, 2025. After the protest, an officer with the Alvarado Police Department arrived on the scene, quickly drawing his gun and pointing it at departing protesters. Shots were fired and the officer allegedly sustained minor injuries, but authorities have never provided hospital records to justify these claims. Alvarado police arrested ten people in the area, and a dozen more were arrested over the following several months.

"Our loved ones did nothing wrong, and they are being thrown away for the rest of their lives. Not only does the evidence prove their innocence, but the actions of ICE and the federal government over the past year have proven the righteousness of their actions… We will continue to fight to bring our loved ones home."

The following links will take you to the defendants active fundraisers:

DFW Support Committee

www.givesendgo.com/supportDFWprotestors

Maricela Rueda & her family

www.gofundme.com/f/help-maricelas-family-while-she-fights-for-justice

Daniel "Des" Sanchez Estrada, Maricela's spouse & the only non-U.S. citizen in this case

https://fundrazr.com/free-des-revol

Zachary Evetts

Write to Zachary:

Johnson County Jail, TX
Zachary Evetts, 202502013
P.O. Box 247
Phoenix, MD 21131

Savanna Batten

Savanna lived with a beloved adventure cat, Garfielda, and 6 hermit crabs, Sebastian, Turbo, Pearl, Muscle Crab, Small Sebastian, and Fist Full of Crab (all rescued). They have been an animal lover their whole life, and vegan since 14. Savanna and Garfielda love most to spend time outdoors together and with friends. Savanna has lost their job and apartment, and they have been separated from their loved ones (human and animal) since their incarceration in July, 2025.

Interests: Nature, prairie ecology, bugs, animals, reading

Write to Savanna:

Johnson County Jail, TX
Savanna Batten, 202502020
P.O. Box 247
Phoenix, MD 21131

Autumn Hill

Autumn Hill's name was legally changed circa 2023, but the federal complaint has used her previous name.

On the evening of July 5th, the FBI conducted a no-knock raid at Autumn's shared house. Autumn was arrested after exiting the house without a struggle.

Interests: Religious history and mythology

"Send me more messy gay fiction!"

Autumn has requested more queer fiction books, especially by queer authors of color.

Write to Autumn:

Johnson County Jail, TX
Cameron Arnold, 202502023
P.O. Box 247
Phoenix, MD 21131

Please address your actual letter to Autumn Hill.

Benjamin “Champagne” Song

Champagne lived with their partner and codefendant, Joy Gibson (Rowan). They had four cats, who have since been housed with family and friends.

“Champagne gave themselves fully to their community with love, duty, and devotion. They fed the unhoused population of Oak Cliff and provided training in first aid. They also taught a weekly queer self defense class.”

Champagne had steady, full-time employment but has since lost their job and their apartment.

Read Champagne’s poems: *prairielanddefendants.com/defendant-writings/poems-by-champagne/*

“My interests include history, world events, culture, food culture, cooking, food preservation, food history, reef and tidepool life, travel, politics, economics, cats. I enjoy history and philosophy books, sci-fi and fantasy, personal accounts, and books with pictures and photos. My ask would be: send me info on regional foods, news stories, prison recipes, pictures of nature and animals.”

Write letters to Song using the following address (you can address them as Champagne or B, and any/all pronouns are okay):

Johnson County Jail, TX
Benjamin Hanil Song, 202502108
P.O. Box 247
Phoenix, MD 21131

Rebecca Morgan

Rebecca has a degree in neurobiology and loves history and applied sciences. She is an avid reader, a splendid artist, and talented cook. Friends and family describe her as kind and compassionate.

Write to her about nature, your favorite recipes, what’s going on on the internet, or the book you’re reading.

Write to Rebecca:

Johnson County Jail, TX
Rebecca Morgan, 202502109
P.O. Box 247
Phoenix, MD 21131

Maricela Rueda

Maricela, known as Mari by her loved ones, is forever the youngest sibling. Mari's favorite color is blue. She shared a home with her dog Oso, two cats Sir Tomothy Pierce Cuddleson III and Trash Cat, and two bunnies Daisy and Daffodil (kidnapped and unsure where they ended up after FBI home invasion). A vegan since 2019 who loves sharing yummy food with others. Not really a "gardener" but practiced in planting wishes and trying to cultivate growth. Mari misses karaoke duets with her now 13 year old kiddo, potlucks with friends, going to reading and writing groups, driving with the windows down and music loud, and laughing with her partner. Read a poem by Maricela: *prairielanddefendants.com/defendant-writings/poems-by-champagne/*

Also please see this additional fundraiser that Mari's family has created:

www.gofundme.com/f/help-maricelas-family-while-she-fights-for-justice

Write to Maricela:

Johnson County Jail, TX
Maricela Rueda, 202502018
P.O. Box 247
Phoenix, MD 21131

Daniel "Des" Rolando Sanchez Estrada

Des Revol—a tattoo artist, PoC anarchist, immigrant, and all-around sweetheart—is currently facing serious charges related to transporting "antifa materials" (aka zines) in the larger Prairieland case of political repression in Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas. But Des isn't just a victim of trumped-up political prosecution. He's a beloved artist and friend who loves nothing more than experimenting with new vegan recipes, digging into new books, looking at baby opossums and sometimes fostering them, spitting out bars or writing poetry, and spending time with loved ones. As a longtime vegan dedicated to animal liberation, solidarity with nonhumans shows up in much of Des′s artwork, including through his playful depictions of raccoons, cats, and other critters. Des extends this deep solidarity outward: he′s a loving brother, son, and friend; he's a free-spirited dreamer who takes good care of everyone and everything around him. Now stuck in a federal prison and facing potential deportation, Des is continuing to lend solidarity by, among other things, drawing pictures for other inmates to send to their families. Des's Support website: *freedes.net*

Interests: Animals/nature, tattooing/drawing, veganism/cooking, motorcycles

Daniel Rolando Sanchez Estrada #95099-511
FCI Victorville Medium II
Federal Correctional Institution
PO Box 3850
Adelanto, CA 92301

Dario Sanchez

Dario is a computer science teacher with 5 years of service. In the summer of 2024, he put his career on hold to take care of his partner who is injured and needs help caring for herself. He was arrested at a pre-dawn raid on their home with no struggle. In spite of this ordeal, he hopes to return to the classroom and share his love of technology with students for years to come.

Days after being released on bond, another charge and bond conditions were added at a pre-trial hearing. This second, unexpected arrest is where Dario witnessed the horrific abuse of another prisoner. Weeks after being released on bond, prosecutors had Dario arrested a third time, at gunpoint, after alleging he searched for information on explosive devices, when in reality his bond officer had made those searches. All of this has been a massive financial drain on him and his partner, with fees attached to each of his bond conditions.

Lucy Fowlkes

Lucy Fowlkes (she/they) is the most recently arrested defendant in the Prairieland case. Lucy loves gardening and horticulture. Hiking and exploring. She loves her dog, Daisy. She lives on a farm and raise goats and chickens. She loves nature and just being outside. She is very protective of people she loves and strangers as well. She is part of a prayer circle in the jail and is bonding with their cell mates.

After being held for months in Johnson County, Lucy was finally released on bond in July 2026!

Joy “Rowan” Gibson

Rowan (they/them) lived with their partner and codefendant, Benjamin Song (Champagne). They had four cats, who have since been housed with family and friends.

Rowan serves their community with love and care. They were always there if someone needed help and fed the unhoused population of Oak Cliff. They are a vegan who cared for stray animals around them and did their best to make sure everyone had a home.

Interests: Animals, poetry, anime, art, science fiction, fantasy literature, cooking, gardening/plants

Write to Rowan:

Johnson County Jail, TX
Joy Gibson, 202502016
PO Box 247
Phoenix, MD 21131

Elizabeth Soto

Elizabeth (Liz) is a mother of 3, provides for her youngest child, and has 2 fur babies. Her partner, Ines, was also arrested.

“Liz is the kind of person whose loving nature shows in everything she does, fulfilling the role of an older sister in many of her relationships. She is always fiery and passionate. She is as courageous as they come. Liz is spontaneous and fun, enjoying life with an adventurous zeal. A lifelong learner, she passionately studies history. In her family, she prioritizes their traditions and culture. Her non-judgmental presence allows her to connect lost or hurting people with community and support. The community confides in Liz and depends on her for support and advice.”

Liz lost her job after being arrested at an intersection the night of July 4th. With two people incarcerated, the remainder of her small family is struggling financially.

Interests: Geology, botany, ecology (with a special interest in the prairielands), native plants, gardening, gothic horror, and historical fantasy

Write to Liz:

Johnson County Jail, TX
Elizabeth Soto, 202502014
P.O. Box 247
Phoenix, MD 21131

Ines Soto

Ines is a father of 3, provides for his youngest child, and has 2 fur babies. His partner, Liz, was also arrested. *"Ines is big-hearted, a dedicated friend and father with a great sense of humor and even greater sense of civic virtue. He sticks to his values and is incredibly honest. He is trustworthy, determined, genuine, and humble. He is always focused and committed to his family. He embraces the loner and welcomes the stranger. We met at a social event that I came to alone: he was the first person to welcome me. He has a genuine interest in making everyone comfortable and an overall interest in the well-being of others. Ines spends a lot of time and resources cultivating spaces for creative individuals from marginalized communities to meet each other. Whether he's working on cars or shooting hoops with the kids, it is evident that Ines is someone who loves deeply. I have seen him personally risk his safety to ensure others' safety. He has a long history of volunteer work including natural disaster relief. He fights for unpopular, excluded, and desperate people. Now we have to fight for him. Ines lost his job of over 5 years after being arrested at an intersection the night of July 4th. With two people incarcerated, the remainder of his small family is struggling financially. Ines is an avid reader who likes fantasy and sci-fi but isn't picky and looks forward to reading just about anything."* Ines lost his job of over 5 years after being arrested at an intersection the night of July 4th. With two people incarcerated, the remainder of his small family is struggling financially. Ines is an avid reader who looks forward to reading just about anything. He would love receive more photos off pretty stuff, outdoorsy stuff, and memes!

Write to Ines:

Johnson County Jail, TX
Ines Soto, 202502008
P.O. Box 247
Phoenix, MD 21131

Janette Goering

Janette's loved ones are funding Janette's case via savings and kind parents. She is a software engineer by trade and loves teaching people in her spare time. She has a husband of 8 years, and 2 wonderful cats.

Donate to her fundraiser: *fundrazr.com/a2jpW0*

At 6 am on Tuesday, October 21, 2025, several Black SUVs surrounded Janette's home and in full tactical gear with automatic weapons broke the silence of the pre-dawn day to search her home and arrest Janette. She was awoken from sleep in a panic and ordered to leave the home where she and her husband were placed into handcuffs and led out for her to be put into the back of a black SUV and driven from her home under arrest.

Goering's bond was set at $5 million. She was released on a reduced bond of $275,000 on June 11, 2026.

She wants all letter writing efforts to go towards the federal trial defendants who just got sentenced on June 23, 2026.